

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Section 63.71 Application of Paul Bunyan Rural)	
Telephone Cooperative For Authority Pursuant to)	File No.
Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934,)	
As Amended, to Discontinue the Provision of)	
Service)	

**SECTION 63.71 APPLICATION OF PAUL BUNYAN
RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE**

Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative d/b/a Paul Bunyan Communications (“Paul Bunyan”) seeks authority under Section 214(a) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and Section 63.71 of the rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission (“Commission”) to discontinue providing local telephone service, including exchange access service, and all interexchange long distance services within one exchange within the state of Minnesota.

As Sections 63.71(a) and (b) of the Commission’s rules require, Paul Bunyan provides the following information:

Name and Address of Carrier (47 C.F.R. §§ 63.71 (a)(1), (b)(2)):

Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative
d/b/a Paul Bunyan Communications
1831 Anne Street, NW, #100
Bemidji, MN 56601

Date of Planned Service Discontinuance (47 C.F.R. §§ 63.71(a)(2), (b)(2)):

Paul Bunyan plans to discontinue the provision of local telephone service, including exchange access service, and all interexchange long distance services within the Duluth

telephone exchange within the state of Minnesota on or after October 22, 2016, subject to regulatory authority.

Points of Geographic Areas of Service Affected (47 C.F.R. §§ 63.71(a)(3), (b)(2)):

Subject to the Commission's authorization, Paul Bunyan will discontinue local telephone service, including exchange access service, and all interexchange long distance services within the Duluth telephone exchange within the state of Minnesota.

Brief Description of Type of Service Affected (47 C.F.R. §§ 63.71(a)(4), (b)(2)):

Paul Bunyan will cease providing local telephone service, including exchange access service, and all interexchange long distance services within the Duluth telephone exchange within the state of Minnesota. The public convenience and necessity will not be impaired by the proposed service discontinuance because Paul Bunyan only has one customer subscribing to local telephone service, including exchange access service, and interexchange long distance service within the Duluth exchange, and that customer has already made arrangements to obtain local and long distance telephone services from another provider within the Duluth exchange. In general, the availability of local telephone service, including exchange access service, and interexchange long distance service from alternative providers ensures that the public convenience and necessity will not be impaired by Paul Bunyan's planned discontinuance of these services within the Duluth exchange.

Brief Description of the Dates and Methods of Notice to All Affected Customers (47 C.F.R. § 63.71(b)(3)):

Paul Bunyan only has one customer of local and long distance telephone services within the Duluth exchange. Paul Bunyan has been working directly with this customer to transition local telephone service, including exchange access service, and interexchange long distance

service to another provider. Paul Bunyan also sent a formal notice to this customer by U.S. Mail on or before September 21, 2016. A copy of this notice is attached as Exhibit A.

Paul Bunyan is sending copies of this Application by first class U.S. Mail to the governor and public utilities commission of Minnesota, as well as to the Special Assistant for Telecommunications to the Secretary of Defense, as required by Section 63.71(a) of the Commission's rules.

Regulatory Classification of Carrier (47 C.F.R. § 63.71(b)(4)):

Paul Bunyan is a competitive local exchange carrier within the Duluth telephone exchange within the state of Minnesota, and is considered non-dominant with respect to the local and long distance telephone services to be discontinued.

Conclusion

The public convenience and necessity will not be adversely affected by Paul Bunyan's discontinuance of local and long distance telephone services in the Duluth telephone exchange because the only customer to which Paul Bunyan has provided local and long distance telephone service has already made arrangements to obtain local and long distance telephone services from another provider within the Duluth exchange and there are various alternative providers for these services within the Duluth exchange. Paul Bunyan respectfully requests that the Commission approve this Section 63.71 Application to authorize Paul Bunyan to discontinue local telephone

service, including exchange access service, and interexchange long distance service within the Duluth exchange.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Whiteaker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

By: Gregory W. Whiteaker
Robin E. Tuttle
Herman & Whiteaker, LLC
6720-B Rockledge Drive, Suite 150
Bethesda, MD 20817
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202-600-7274
Its Attorneys

September 21, 2016

EXHIBIT A



September 21, 2016

Phone 218.444.1234
Toll Free 888.586.3100
Fax 218.444.1121

1831 Anne St. NW
Bemidji, MN 56601
paulbunyan.net

Re: FCC-Required Notice of Discontinuance of Services

Dear

This letter is to formally inform you that on or after October 22, 2016, Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative d/b/a Paul Bunyan Communications ("Paul Bunyan") will no longer be providing local telephone service, including exchange access service, and interexchange long distance service within the Duluth telephone exchange within the state of Minnesota. This discontinuance is limited to Paul Bunyan's offering of local telephone service, including exchange access service, and interexchange long distance service within the Duluth exchange.

The Federal Communications Commission ("FCC" or "Commission") will normally authorize this proposed discontinuance of service unless it is shown that customers would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from another carrier or that the public convenience and necessity is otherwise adversely affected. If you wish to object, you should file your comments as soon as possible, but no later than 15 days after the Commission releases public notice of the proposed discontinuance. You may file your comments electronically through the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System using the docket number established in the Commission's public notice for this proceeding, or you may address them to the Federal Communications Commission, Wireline Competition Bureau, Competition Policy Division, Washington, DC 20554, and include in your comments a reference to the § 63.71 Application of Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative. Comments should include specific information about the impact of this proposed discontinuance upon you or your company, including any inability to acquire reasonable substitute service.

If you have any questions about this notice or Paul Bunyan's discontinuance of the aforementioned local and long distance services within the Duluth exchange, please contact us at 218-444-1234.

We have appreciated serving your communications needs and we thank you for your business.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that appears to read "Dave Schultz".

Dave Schultz, CFO
Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative
1831 Anne St NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Hilary Hoyle, certify that I have, on September 21, 2016, served a copy of the foregoing Section 63.71 Application of Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative by U.S. Mail postage prepaid to the following addresses.



Hilary Hoyle

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2147

Office of the Governor
State of Minnesota
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Secretary of Defense
Attn: Special Assistant for Telecommunications
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301